

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith, Everel S., House
other names/site number 091-673-66008

2. Location

street & number 56 West Jefferson Street N/A not for publication
city, town Westville N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county LaPorte code 091 zip code 46391

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

ITALIANATE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof ASPHALT

other METAL: iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Everel S. Smith House is located on the northeast corner of West Jefferson Street and Clyborn Avenue in a residential area and is set well back from the streets it fronts. The lot is relatively level on the west side and in the center, then slopes down slightly to the east property line. There are four large maples and one medium size tulip tree equally spaced in the adjoining parkways. A gas post lamp stands in the yard some distance from each of the front corners of the building. There is an enclosed garden with patio (6' high, woven cypress fence, 32' X 32') on the west side beginning at the back of the bay and extending north and west. The house faces south and is of two story, red brick construction with ivory painted wood trim. Its design is Italianate with a single story wing on the north (rear) side. There is a hip roof on the main section capped by a widow's walk with a wrought iron fence around its perimeter. A gable is centered on a short extension of the center, front wall which has a limestone block with beveled corners set in its center above the second story windows that is inscribed with the date 1879. There is a black, cast, spread eagle below the inscribed stone.

The foundations and exterior walls are of three and four course brick.

A large, open porch is centered on the front (south) side (photo 2). Its wood deck is supported by brick piers to near the first floor level and is reached by a centrally located concrete stoop and steps with wrought iron railings. The porch's flat roof is elevated to about the second floor level and is supported by six equally spaced, square, beveled wood columns. Decorative wood scrolls are set in the angles where the porch columns meet its headers. Carved wood, scrolled knee braces at each column support a roof overhang which is finished with a soffit board and moulded wood cornice. Chain hung electric lanterns are suspended from the porch's tongue and groove ceiling on both sides of the building entrance. Spaces between the porch's supporting piers below are closed with wood lattice work.

The main entrance is centrally located in a section of the front wall which extends about two feet out from the main wall. This extension rises to form the gable above the second floor, mentioned earlier. The entrance consists of solid, wood paneled, double doors with limestone threshold and glazed transom capped by an arched, limestone label lintel.

☒ See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1879-1923

Significant Dates

1879

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Smith, Everel S.

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Everel S. Smith House is locally significant under Criteria B and C. This brick house is representative of Smith's prosperous career as a local merchant and banker. He owned several enterprises in Westville, Indiana, but is primarily significant because he founded and operated the only bank in town for many years. The Smith House is significant architecturally as the best example of the Italianate style in Westville.

The Italianate style was popular in Indiana from about 1860 until 1890. In LaPorte County, the style appears to have been first popular shortly after the Civil War. Most Italianate houses in the county are actually vernacular types with applied detailing. Upright-and-wing or gable-front types often feature Italianate style bracketed cornices or window surrounds. Few houses in the county feature either the informal "picturesque" or formal "villa" types of Italianate recommended in pattern books of the day. The Smith House is one of very few examples of the symmetrical, formal type of Italianate house seen in LaPorte County. The Smith House has many features which make it an outstanding example of Italianate, such as a formal plan with projecting bays, the use of label hood molds over the windows, paired scroll brackets, and an ornamental porch. It is the only high-style example in Westville and New Durham Township.

Successful businessman Everel S. Smith had this house built in 1879. Born in 1838 in Huntsburg, Ohio, Smith was educated at both the Western Reserve Seminary and Oberlin College. Upon graduation from Oberlin in 1863, Smith taught for a short time. Everel's studies were disrupted, however, by several tours of duty in the Civil War.¹ Having completed school and military service, Smith spent 1866 on a leased plantation in Hermando, Mississippi. His wife, Amelia Snyder, died on the plantation.

In 1867, Everel Smith decided to return north, and for reasons unknown, he permanently settled in Westville, Indiana. Westville was platted in 1851, strategically placed on the path of the New Albany and Salem Railroad, which arrived in 1853.

☐ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cass, Ruth A. Reminiscences of Westville. Publisher Unknown, 1981.

Daniels, E. D. A Twentieth Century History and Biographical Record of LaPorte County, Indiana. Chicago's Lewis Publishing Co., 1904.

History of LaPorte County, Indiana. Chicago: Chas. Chapman & Co., 1880.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: LaPorte County Interim Report. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1989.

Smith, Everel S. "Personal Journal." 1859-1867.

Westville Centennial Souvenir Booklet. Publisher Unknown, 1951.

☒ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A 16 508530 4598840
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Starting at the northeast corner of the intersection of the rights-of-way of West Jefferson and Clyborn Streets, then north along the right-of-way of Clyborn Street 120' then east 120', then south 120' to Jefferson Street, then west along the north right-of-way of Jefferson Street for 120' to the point of origin.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Glassford

organization Owner

street & number 56 West Jefferson Street

city or town Westville

date 12/2/89

telephone 219/785-2133

state IN zip code 46391

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The windows in the main section have limestone sills and limestone label lintels. Tops of the lintels are flat with angled corners and the bottoms are segmental arched. Windows which are paired feature label lintels which are segmental on both the top and bottom surfaces. The tops of the upper frames and sashes have a radius to fit the arch in the lintels. Most windows, except where noted, are two-over-two wood double hung sash. Windows, except those in the bays and basement, have wood storm windows with mullion set on limestone sill with top radius set in brick header, arched lintel.

There is a window on both sides of the main entrance set between the entrance and the building's corners.

The second floor front is a geometrical duplication of the first floor but with two side by side windows in the center, extended section directly above the main entrance.

East elevation of the main section, first floor consists of 9 bays nearer the front and side by side windows nearer the rear. Both the east and west elevations have one story, semi-hexagonal bays approximately one-fourth of the main sections depth back from the front. The diagonal facing windows are narrow, one-over-one sash, while the ones facing due east and west are of the usual type. A cornice with brackets and flat roof completes the bay. Paired windows stand to the north of the bay. The second story has side by side windows over the bay and a single window above the paired windows.

West elevation of the main section is a duplication of the east except there is but one window on the first floor nearer the rear.

There is a wide wood frieze with center and top mouldings on the main section and wood soffit on the roof overhang with moulded wood eaves. Scrolled wood brackets supporting the soffit are set double in the center and near each corner with a single bracket spaced equidistantly between all four sides of the main section only.

There is one brick chimney which is located at the center of the exterior north wall of the main section. Its flue is built into this wall and originates in the basement.

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There is a single story, rectangular wing on the north (rear) side of the main section. East elevation of this wing reveals a one story, wood and glazed sun porch with shed roof which extends about two-thirds the length of the wing (originates at main section, see photo 5) with wood floor supported to first floor height by concrete block piers with spaces enclosed by wood lattice. A five riser wood stair leads sun porch deck to grade. A small fixed sash is set in the brick wall of the wing between the porch and the wing's corner. The rear of a shed-roofed, lap-sided, frame garage with a double-hung window in its center is also visible. Through the sun porch is an entrance to the wing and a double-hung window in the wing between this entrance door and the main section. These openings are on the east wall of the wing.

West elevation of the wing is approximately bisected by the six foot, garden/patio fence. To the right (south) of the fence is a solid, wood paneled, double door entrance with limestone threshold above a concrete stoop which adjoins a concrete patio on grade. The doors are set in the brick wall with a fixed, glazed transom and a brick header segmental arched lintel. Between the doors and the main section to the right is a double-hung window with limestone sill and same lintel construction as doors. To the left of the garden fence intersection with the wing (the first section of the woven, cypress fence is hinged at this point to allow outside access to the garden/patio) is a grade level entrance. This is a wood paneled door with lights and wood storm door set in a wood frame, lap-sided, former opening to a carriage room on grade. Short, frame extensions of this opening with a wood shake, shed roof and lap siding form a shelter for this entrance. To the left (north) is the front of a shed roof, frame garage with lap siding and wood paneled overhead garage door with lights. There is a wide, wood frieze with top moulding on the brick portion of the wing, a wood soffit on the roof overhang and a moulded, wood eave. Eaves on both main section and wing are fitted with external gutters and downspouts.

The wing's north elevation reveals the side of the garage. Above that, the brick gable of the original wing with one, small double-hung attic window, a first floor window on the right (west) in the main section near the northwest corner, another window directly above on the second floor, the short shake-shingled, shed roof

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over the west side, wing entrance with the narrow, lap-sided wall supporting it and the wood fencing of the garden/patio. On the left (east) side of the wing there is an entrance to the one story, frame and glass, sun porch with wood stairs to grade. Through the sun porch is revealed an entrance to the main section with limestone threshold and brick header, arched lintel. Directly above the porch roof is a window on the second floor. There are two, smaller double-hung windows spaced off center on the second floor above the roof of the wing and in the center of the north wall of the main section, above the roof, is a chimney.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION: The main entrance opens into a small vestibule with doors set in angled walls to right and left each giving private access to separate parlors which dominate the front of the building. These rooms have a north-south partition with a large, arched doorway containing three doors, two of which are hinged together allowing opening the doorway to its full width. Behind the parlors are a library/den on the left (west) side accessible through double doors and a dining room on the right (east) side accessed through a wide, untrimmed, arched opening. On the left side of the opening is the foot of a stairway, open on the dining room side, which ascends to a second floor landing. The stairs have a carved, wood, rectangular newel post, turned balustrade, and moulded, wood rail. The back (north) side of the dining room has three doorways with cafe doors to the kitchen wing on the left (west) side, a door to a bathroom in the wing in the center and a door on the right (east) side giving access to the sun porch. In the library/den there is a doorway to the kitchen at the east end of its north wall, and adjacent at a right angle to that a door to a closet under the stairs. Other than the library/den, (which has white, painted base and window trim), most all other woodwork is hand painted with dark mahogany and/or light oak grain. Doors have white porcelain knobs and keyhole trims. There are wide, dark stained wood baseboards and in the base in each room on an exterior wall is set a round, filagreeed, cast iron grill with an adjustable damper which opens to a conduit void in the walls terminating at a similar grill set in the exterior masonry just north of the west bay. (This apparently was used as a fresh air intake for heating stoves as originally there was chimney access from each of these rooms.) There is no fireplace in the building. All windows including the bays have wood paneling below from sill to floor and their frames have a moulded wood trim. The west parlor has a narrow, moulded, dark-stained,

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wood cornice and the east parlor has a narrow, dark-stained, wood moulding around the room perimeter at the height of the top of the window trim. Ceiling height throughout the main section on both floors is ten feet.

There are dark mahogany stained, turned wood corner posts on all outside corners of partitions extending from the top of the base about four feet. At the bays, corner posts on the exterior walls extend from base to ceiling cornice.

The second floor of the main section has a large hallway reached by two risers from the stairway landing. There is a dark stained, mahogany, turned balustrade, newel post and moulded rail bordering the stairwell. There are four bedrooms and one bathroom (containing a claw and ball tub) off the hallway. Also a door to the attic stairway and another door to a narrow, right-angle, walk-in storage space east of the attic stairwell partition and north of the bathroom. (There are stairs in the attic up to a hinged hatch in the deck of the widow's walk.) Woodwork on second floor is finished same as first floor. The sills of the windows are set at the top of the baseboards.

Two of the bedrooms have wood paneled corner closets with painted, light oak finish and a third has a shallow, flat one of the same construction and finish near one corner. The two west side bedrooms have a door between them in their east-west partition.

Exterior walls in main section and wing are plaster on brick and the partitions and ceilings are plaster on wood lath on frame construction. Wall finishes are paint and wallpaper and floors and stairs are carpet.

The rear wing contains a kitchen with a seven foot, six inch ceiling and a full bath (access from dining room). A hallway north of the bathroom leads to an exterior door to the sun porch on the east, and at that point another doorway in the north partition leads to a laundry room. The laundry gives access to a stairway leading to a large, floored attic through a trapdoor the length of the stairwell. In the northwest corner of the kitchen there are three stairs down to a landing which abuts exterior, double doors to the garden/patio. From this landing is a stairway to the basement (south) under the main section. This stairwell has a wood, turned balustrade and newel post and moulded rail on

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the kitchen level. On the other side of the landing (north) is a door to a sewing/all-purpose room two steps down. That room is built on grade with a nine foot false beam ceiling, has an exterior entrance on the west (former carriage entrance) and a door to the garage in center of the exterior, north wall.

There is a crawl space under the kitchen and bath portion of the wing which is accessible through a small, sliding door off the basement stairwell.

The main section of the building has a full basement with six-foot, seven-inch ceiling height, plaster on wood lath ceilings and exposed, painted, brick walls. There is a two course, brick bearing wall running the width of the building separating the north and south areas with a door between. A brick partition with door divides the north portion which consists of a furnace room (gas fired, forced air) and a workshop/storage room. Each of these rooms have a window, earlier described. The south room is large, running the full width of the building plus the bays at each end. Each bay has a window. Floor construction in the basement is concrete grout over bricks on sand.

ALTERATIONS: The building originally had three chimneys (two removed). The deleted ones were located in the center of the east and west exterior walls and were of brick construction. Windows had dark painted, wood shutters with segmental tops. Rain gutters were built in the roof eaves with external downspouts connected to a cistern under the kitchen wing. There was an entrance to a carriage storage room on the north end, west side of the wing (present grade entrance to wing.) Roofs were wood shake shingles. There was no garage or shed on the north side of the wing (date unknown).

In the interior, the stairway to the second floor was closed with a door at its foot and an adjoining door to the east between west parlor and dining room (present location of arched opening). Aside from these relatively minor alterations, the Smith House retains a high degree of integrity.

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Though Westville had a population of only 500 by 1904, it was (and is) the largest settlement in New Durham Township. The town developed rapidly after the Civil War, and Smith soon earned a niche in the local economy as a druggist. He continued as a druggist and grocer until 1887. Smith then sold this business, the only pharmacy in town, to Mr. Scott. At that time, he founded the Bank of Westville. Prior to this, Smith carried an account with the First National Bank of Chicago, which allowed him to essentially perform the functions of a banking institute. The Bank of Westville was the only bank in the town, and most likely served most of the township as well. Obviously, Mr. Smith was in a position which had much influence over the development of the town since he owned the only financial institution in Westville. After a new building for the Bank of Westville was erected by Smith in 1892, he started a dry goods business. There was only one other general store in town. By 1904, Everel owned 160 acres of farm land in New Durham and Clinton townships and maintained an apple orchard which had about 1,000 bearing trees. Mr. Smith owned a number of buildings in Westville. Of the two most associated with him (the bank and his house) only his house has survived.

He was politically and socially active in his community as well. Smith served a term as town treasurer in about 1904, was a member of the Westville Lodge No. 192, F&AM, the local I.O.O.F., and a charter member of the Martin Post No. 216, GAR.

Everel Smith lived in his Italianate mansion with his wife Julia (Noble) Smith of Porter County, Indiana, and four daughters until his death in 1923. The period of significance has been figured to include the years when Smith was active as a significant businessman.

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Footnote

¹Civil War activities from his personal journal:

First term of service was as a Private in Co. B, 87th OVI from May 18 to October 1, 1862. He was stationed at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, when it was surrendered to Rebels on September 15. Was paroled by Rebels and discharged from service. In this term he was a 90 day volunteer.

Second term: Enlisted as Private in Co. D, 2nd OVC from September 26, 1864, to March 4, 1865. Involved in Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, on October 19. In attack upon Rebels at Zion Church southwest of Winchester, he was captured. Released by Rebels after being stripped of horse and all equipment. While attempting to make his way back to Union lines, he was recaptured when he approached a Rebel encampment where many of the troops were clothed in Union uniforms. He was marched with about 90 other prisoners 30 miles toward Richmond at which point he escaped and made his way to the mountains in the west and eventually the Union lines. Discharged from Army of the Cumberland on March 4, 1865.

Third term: Same date he received a commission of 1st Lieutenant in the 24th USCT. On April 22 his regiment escorted President Lincoln's body in the parade at Philadelphia. He was mustered out on October 1, 1865.

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Bibliography (continued)

Westville High School Annual Report, 1880. (The Westville High School stood on the site of the Smith House until it burned in 1879).

Westville Indicator. January 7, 1897.

Westville Public Library, Historical Files.